

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for obtaining a plant with increased tolerance to drought or salt stress conditions relative to a corresponding wild type plant, said method comprising:

(a) introducing into one or more cells, tissue or organs of a plant, a nucleic acid molecule encoding a Cyclin Dependent Kinase (CDK) mutein operably linked to a promoter which functions in a plant cell, wherein the CDK mutein has a non-phosphorylatable amino acid residue in a position that corresponds to the tyrosine located at position 15 in the amino acid sequence of *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, and wherein the CDK mutein comprises a PSTAIRE cyclin binding motif;

(b) regenerating plants from the one or more cells, tissue or organs of (a);

(c) exposing the regenerated plants of (b) to drought or salt stress conditions; and

(d) selecting a plant with increased tolerance to drought or salt stress conditions compared to a corresponding wild type plant.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the CDK mutein further comprises a non-phosphorylatable amino acid residue in a position that corresponds to the threonine located at position 14 in the amino acid sequence of *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1.

6. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the CDK mutein is free of phosphate groups at amino acid residues corresponding to the tyrosine at position

15 and the threonine at position 14, in the amino acid sequence of CDKA;1 of *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein the non-phosphorylatable amino acid residue is phenylalanine.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 5, wherein the non-phosphorylatable amino acid residue is alanine.

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Withdrawn)** The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said non-phosphorylated form of CDK is due to dephosphorylation and/or inhibition of phosphorylation of CDK.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The method claim 13, wherein said dephosphorylation is conferred by CDC25 or a functional analogue thereof, capable of dephosphorylation at least the tyrosine at position 15 of the endogenous CDK of said plant.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 13, wherein said inhibition of phosphorylation is conferred by the suppression of expression or activity of Wee-kinase, MIK, MYT or a functional equivalent thereof, inhibiting the endogenous phosphorylation of at least the tyrosine at position 15 of the CDK of the said plant.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 14 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes said CDC25, Wee-kinase MIK, MYT or functional analogue or equivalent thereof.

17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding a CDK mutein operably linked to a promoter which functions in a plant cell further comprises at least one of an enhancer, silencer, intron sequence, 3' UTR region, 5' UTR region, protein or RNA stabilizing element.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 18, wherein the promoter is a chimeric, tissue specific, constitutive or inducible promoter.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 19, wherein the inducible promoter is inducible by salt or drought stress.

21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method of any one of claims 1, 5, 6, or 11, wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous or a dicotyledonous plant.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 or 5 wherein the plant is a crop plant, root plant, oil producing plant, wood producing plant, agricultured ~~biocultured~~ bioticultured plant, fruit producing plant, fodder or forage legume, companion plant or horticultural plant.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22 wherein the plant is wheat, barley, maize, rice, carrot, sugar beet, cotton, sunflower, tomato, soybean, sugar cane, flax, oilseed rape, canola, onion, rye, sorghum, oats, tobacco, pepper, grape, or potato.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a Cyclin Dependent Kinase (CDK) mutein wherein the CDK mutein comprises a phenylalanine at a position corresponding to residue 15 in *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, or wherein the CDK mutein comprises an alanine and phenylalanine at

positions corresponding to residues 14 and 15 respectively, in *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to a ~~chimeric~~[[,]] tissue-specific[[,]] or abiotic stress-inducible promoter.

26. **(Previously Presented)** A transgenic plant cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 25.

27. **(Canceled)**

28. **(Previously Presented)** A transgenic plant or plant tissue comprising plant cells of claim 26.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The transgenic plant of claim 28 which displays increased tolerance to drought or salt stress compared to a corresponding wild type plant.

30. **(Canceled)**

31. **(Currently Amended)** Harvestable parts or propagation material of a plant of claim 28 wherein the harvestable parts or propagation material comprise a nucleic acid molecule encoding a Cyclin Dependent Kinase (CDK) mutein wherein the CDK mutein comprises a phenylalanine at a position corresponding to residue 15 in *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, or wherein the CKI mutein comprises an alanine and a phenylalanine at positions corresponding to residues 14 and 15 respectively, in *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to a regulatory sequence comprising a ~~chimeric~~ [[,]] tissue-specific[[,]] or abiotic stress-inducible promoter.